

FREE PRESS.

ISAAC H. JULIAN, - - Editor.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE FREE PRESS should be sent in on Monday to insure insertion the same week, and all advertisements and business notices let later than Wednesday noon.

Positively no communication published unless the writer's real name accompanies it, not for publication unless desired; but for our own benefit and protection.

We invite special attention to the various clubbing terms we offer to new or renewing advance-paying subscribers to the FREE PRESS. We feel persuaded that no other paper in Texas offers so attractive a list.

Lamar was confirmed by a vote of 32 to 28.

Judge Cook comes out strongly against the immigration movement. This of course—from him.

The latest news from Washington indicates the passage of the Blair bill by both houses of Congress.

The "literary editor" of the Houston Post credits the line, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," to Shakespeare. We thought everybody knew it was from Pope.

The recent blizzard at the North was one of the worst ever known. About one hundred persons are estimated to have perished. The prevalent cold famine greatly aggravated the distress.

We notice with regret an announcement of the recent death of Rolla Ryan, the well-known comedian. He died near Trinity, Texas, while on a professional tour. Alas, poor Yorick!

We have received from the Government printing office a file of the of the Congressional Record from the beginning of the present session to the 13th inst. If any M. C. favored us he was too modest to give his name.

Gen. Bragg, of Wisconsin, has secured the appointment to the Mexican Mission. He is said to be well qualified, but we have not seen it mentioned whether or not he is a teetotaler—the grand requisite, as has appeared, for that position.

The Fort Worth Mail says: A Los Angeles paper comes to hand which contains the delinquent assessment list of the city of Los Angeles for the current year. It is composed in close nonpareil type, and fills forty-four columns of the paper. The columns are twenty-six inches long. It merely goes to show that there are two sides to the boom.

Dr. McGlynn, the excommunicated priest of New York, received a Christ mass present of \$1,200 from his old parishioners. This is \$400 more than his former salary. We notice with pleasure that he continues to have a large following among Catholics, who repudiate the right of the Pope to dictate their political views or affiliations as American citizens.

San Antonio refused by an overwhelming majority to tax itself for another ten cents on the \$100 to build an additional school house for the negroes. Of course, San Antonio prefers an ignorant class of voters. They are better patrons of the saloons and their votes can be bought cheap. Or, peradventure, she is waiting for the passage of the Blair bill.

The San Marcos Free Press has entered upon its seventeenth volume. Bro. Julian has had a hard road to travel since he assumed control of the paper, but he manages to get out a good paper, and will eventually come out on top. At least the Journal hopes he may.

The above from Bro. Edmondson of the LaGrange Journal is in the just and manly style which we have always found to characterize him.

We have been remiss in not having sooner noticed the "Old Capitol," a new newspaper venture conducted by Victor M. Rice. While the editorial ability and publishing enterprise of Col. Rice are undoubted, it seems to us that he could not have selected a better place for hiding his light under a bushel. His paper hails from Columbus, Port Bend Co. Very likely, however, he understands himself better than we do.

The Free Press—Its Position and Mission.

A too common type of the country newspaper in Texas, is one of which but little can be said in its favor. In business it is a slouch if not a fraud. A considerable part of its ostensible advertisements are "dead," and the unfortunate who once gets an advertisement in its columns is frequently unable to get it out again. Long after it has fulfilled its mission, and he has almost forgotten it, it is retained by the enterprising publisher to "fill up." For the same reason he spreads out his advertisements to three or four times their proper size, without additional pay, while he sends out his paper to whoever will agree to take it, risking the chances of getting any pay. He charges only about half the rates of respectable newspapers (save when a chance to "gouge" occurs), and his advertising space is dear at that.

As regards questions of public interest, he manifests no fixed principles, but is a time-server, trying to please all. His grand supposed winning card is to praise everybody alike and indiscriminately,—to "lay it on thick" with an unsparring hand. The consequence is, he is everybody's convenient tool and respected by no one.

The literary staple of his paper, (aside from its profuse, gratuitous puff) is made up of poor little items of street corner news and curbstone gossip. It advances no idea, discusses no principle, but is infatuated with the idea that its line of small beer paragraphs is the acme of journalism.

But the reader may inquire, what has all this to do with the position and mission of the Free Press? Why, just this, the latter are the very opposite of what we have imperfectly delineated. The Free Press contains no dead-head or dead beat business, no subscriptions are taken or retained for it without a good degree of moral certainty that they will be paid. Dead advertisements are not tolerated—all are promptly taken out at the expiration of the time paid for. A fair, living, uniform price is charged for them, and because of its established circulation among the solid well-to-do people of the country, full value received is assured to its advertising patrons. Editorially it seems to indulge in indiscriminate puffing, gives praise only where it is deserved, and does not hesitate, however regretfully, to criticize, or condemn, where its paramount duty to the public so requires.

Nor does it seek to evade or temporize as regards any question of public interest. On the contrary, it is always ready to show its hand, and always on the side of the people generally. It assumes no superior wisdom, but claims the simple privilege of expressing its opinions, on cooling the right of others to do the same. Its mission is to hold up the standard of morality, education and political principle, and to lead off on all the lines of human rights and advancement.

Such is our programme and platform. Reader, how do you like it?

The Colorado Citizen, noticing our new volume, does great injustice—no doubt unintentionally—both to the Free Press and its constituents. After some personal references indicating as we "guess" prejudice growing out of the prohibition contest, Editor Julian gets up a good paper, and a staunch advocate of the interests of San Marcos and Hays county. He is not, however, *ex parte* with the majority of the citizens of his county, and seems willing and anxious to sell out to a stock company and retire from the field.

By way of text we will notice some points of the above.

1. The Citizen administers a hard slap to the people of our town and county by broadly intimating, as it does, that although we are publishing a good paper, staunchly devoted to their interests, they are small and mean enough to persecute us on petty grounds of personal prejudice. We repeat this as an aspersion on our (generally) just and liberal-minded people.

2. Not content with the above, the Citizen goes on to broadly assert that we are not in accord with the majority of the citizens of our county. We wonder the absurdity of such a statement never occurred to the writer, in view of the fact that that we have successfully sustained a paper here for over fifteen years past. Could we have done that with the majority of the people unfriendly to us? The question answers itself.

3. Assuming this gratuitously that the majority of our people are not friendly disposed toward us, he proceeds to give that as the reason why we are, we were "willing and anxious to sell out to a stock

company and retire from the field." He forgets that we gave our chief reason for wishing to sell the fact that we had been in the business so long, and preferred to turn our efforts into other channels. For this reason we are willing, not anxious, to sell, to a stock company or any other party. We suggested a stock company because the subject had been broached by others, and to silence the cavils of the handful of the dissatisfied with the Free Press. That is the whole story.

Come up to Hays county, Colonel, and talk with our people, and you will soon be able to form a more correct conclusion as to the standing of the Free Press and its editor with the majority of our citizens.

By an extra of the Free Lance, published at Decatur, Ala., we learn that that place is enjoying a boom and no mistake, and is already transformed from a sleepy country village of a thousand inhabitants into a pushing, bustling city. Northern capital and enterprise, starting manufactures, tells the story. As a sample, it is stated that the Urbana, O., car works, the largest of the kind in the world, are about to remove to Decatur. The capital now employed by them is over \$4,000,000 and their works will cover over fifty acres of land.

When will San Marcos' turn come? The Austin Statesman expresses the opinion that the pistol law is a failure. It does not look much like a failure in this, Miami county, when at the last term of the county court, there were four or five convictions with the jail penalty attached. The pistol law is not responsible for train, stage, or highway robberies.—Ex.

This law has only been a failure where it has not been impartially enforced, and scions of the "first families" have been held exempt by public sentiment dictating the faithlessness of officials.

IRRIGATION, ETC.

Ex-Land Commissioner Walsh Strikes the Key Note of Permanent Prosperity in Western Texas.

The Austin Statesman a short time since interviewed Capt. Walsh on the subject of irrigation, which is fast becoming the paramount question in the future of Texas. We copy the interview below:

"Captain, Mr. Woodbridge in his remarks before the board of trade referred to you as being interested in the irrigation project now under discussion. Have you given the question any special study?"

"I have, for years, been convinced of the practicability and advisability of irrigating the Colorado valley, and for the past year have been urging its advantages. I have discussed the question with many of our most wealthy and enterprising citizens, and am gratified to find the idea has at last assumed a question of mode. The valley will certainly be irrigated in the near future."

"Did you read Mr. Woodbridge's article in last Sunday's issue?"

"I did, and in the main features, viz: that it is practical and that it is a necessity, I agree with him."

"Did you hear Judge Terrell's remarks on the subject before the board of trade?"

"I did, and was sorry he made them. I am no more anxious than the judge to advertise our country as a desert, but I recognize the fact that agriculture here without irrigation is a lottery. It is true that no man depending upon farming for a living in this country will ever starve, but why struggle for a bare subsistence when a little enterprise and capital will make agriculture a source of wealth both to the individual and to the whole city and county?"

The judge says that in thirty-five years residence in this country he has known but one failure of crops, viz: 1847. If he means by failure the only year in which nothing was made, he may be right, but the farmer who toils for twelve months and does not harvest enough to pay for the year's supplies is firmly convinced that he has made a failure."

"It is proposed to invite capitalists and agriculturists to visit our section this spring, with a view of adding money and population to our county. I do not hope to convince them that this is a desirable country by simply showing them our magnificent scenery and demonstrating our beautiful climate. The fever-laden jungles of Africa and the ice-bound cliffs of Alaska have failed to retard the flow of capital and enterprise for the simple reason that money could be made there. So it will be here. State facts to our visitors and show them the possibilities for development, and they will stay. However much we may wish to exaggerate our agricultural and horticultural possibilities, we cannot suppress the cold facts presented by the last census. By turning to that we find that for the ten years from 1870 to 1880, the average cotton product of Texas country was 0.11 bale per acre, that it required two and one-half acres to produce one bale. For the same period the corn product was less than 14 bushels per acre. So far in the present decade the seasons have been worse than in the one reported, but the improved methods of agriculture and farming implements have made up the difference, and with two years of good seasons we will probably increase our average."

"With our inexhaustible valley soil and our unfailing valley soil and

our unfailing supply of water, it will not militate against our interest to say that irrigation is always an advantage and sometimes a necessity. Twenty years ago Colorado was an alkali desert covered with sage brush. To-day the one little town of Greeley pays taxes on nearly as much property as Travis county. An irrigation scheme which had its origin in the minds of five pioneers, has developed into a corporation with thirty-five miles of main and over three hundred miles of ditches, and a property assessed at nearly five millions of dollars. Irrigation is the direct and sole factor of this wealth.

When the gold fields of California refused to longer yield their fabulous wealth, attention was turned to the soil. The enterprising men who composed her population were quick to learn from their predecessors, the Mexicans, the value of irrigation, and to-day the boom of the golden state is the wonder of the world. Without irrigation, the state would be depopulated within twelve months. These instances could be multiplied, but it is useless, and I have referred to them merely to show that the fact that irrigation is a necessity will not deter capital from seeking an investment in any country. On the contrary, put 20,000 to 50,000 acres of our valley under irrigation, and the prosperity of our town is assured. Property will advance in value and capital will flow in. Suppose that nothing but cotton were planted—the average product without irrigation is, we say, one half bale per acre—the product would immediately leap to one bale per acre, and in many portions to one and a half bales. The increased product for one year would more than repay the total cost of irrigation.

During the past few months the dealers of this city have paid for imported vegetables over \$20,000 per month, at the rate of \$240,000 per annum. All of these could be produced on 1,000 acres of irrigated land and the money be kept at home.

"What are your views as to the establishment of factories?"

"They will come in good time, that is, as soon as we have a surplus population to seek employment therein."

"You seem to have faith in irrigation?"

"I have. It is no experiment, but has been practiced since history began, and to-day, nearly one-half of the cultivated land of the globe is under cultivation."

Capt. Walsh is a gentleman of strongly pronounced views on subjects of practical importance which attract his attention.

ONLY AN INDIAN SQUAW.

Only an Indian squaw; brown as a berry, Each eye an emerald star, each lip a cherry. Light as the mountain deer, docile and gentle, Voice deep, yet sweet and clear; form slight and fragile. Back from the sunburnt brow, thick and untamed, Tresses of raven hair float unconfined. And, though a savage belle, wit is not wanting; Wondrously beautiful; daintily enchanting! —Toronto Week.

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